

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BUJUMB 00931 261619Z

43

ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-15 ISO-00 NSC-10 SY-10 PA-03 PRS-01

USIA-15 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 /092 W

----- 068536

R 261410Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4030

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUJUMBURA 0931

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS2; 0*94, BY, US

SUBJECT: REQUEST BY FONMIN SIMBANANIYE FOR MEETING WITH SECRETARY

REF A BUJUMBURA 918, B. BUJUMBURA 546 C. BUJUMBURA A-31

SUMMARY: MESSAGE PRESENTS UP-DATE OF SITUATION IN BURUNDI AND
MAKES SUGGESTIONS FOR UTILIZATION OF POSSIBLE SECRETARY/
SIMBANANIYE MEETING. END SUMMARY

1. CURRENT SITUATION. THERE HAS BEEN NO SIGNIFICANT INTERNAL
DISORDER OR REPRESSIN BURUNDI SINCE LATE MAY EARLY JUNE.
SCATTERED ATTACKS BY REFUGEES HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN SOUTHERN BURURI
PROVINCE, BUT THERE HAS BEEN NO DOMESTIC REACTION IN THE FORM OF
ANTI HUTU VIOLENCE SINCE THAT TIME. ALTHOUGH CONSIDERABLE
NERVOUSNESS ON PART BOTH ETHNIC GROUPS EXISTS AND RENEWED
REFUGEE ATTACKS COULD PROVOKE REPRISALS AT ANY TIME. FRANTIC
REACTION OF TUTSIS IN MAY-JUNE HAS COOLED CONSIDERABLY.
MANNED BARRIERS IN INTERCMR HAVE NOW DISAPPEARED. THERE IS
NO CURFEW (SINCE LAST YEAR) AND MILITARY TRAINING FOR
OFFICIALS NOW ONCE A WEEK IN THEORY AND
LITTLE COMPLIASE IN PRACTICE.

2. GOVERNMENT HAS PLACED INCREASED EMPHASIS ON
EXHORTATIONS TO PEACE, JUSTICE AND UNITY IN ITS PUBLIC
PRONOUNCEMENTS (NOTE E.G. BUJUMBURA 914). THIS AND OTHER
RECENT ACTIONS APPEAR TO REFLECT A GROWING GRB INTEREST IN
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PAGE 02 BUJUMB 00931 261619Z

IMPROVING EXTERNAL IMAGE, AS WELL, APPARENTLY, AS

EFFORT TO EXERT GREATER CONTROL OVER MINOR RACIAL PERSECUTION AND POTENTIAL REPRESSION IN OUTLYING AREAS OF COUNTRY.

3. INTERNAL POLITICS, HOWEVER, CONTINUE TO REFLECT INTRA-TUTSI RIVALRIES. BURURI "RADICAL" GROUP IS IN THE ASCENDANT AT MOMENT WITH INCREASED AUTHORITY TO FONMIN SIMBANANIYE AND APPOINTMENT MAJOR RWURI AS MINISTER OF INTERIOR. MAY REFLECT IN PART SUCCESS OF SIMBANANIYE'S POLICIES OF SEEKING ARAB AND CHINESE HELP TO BALANCE WESTERN WITHDRAWAL FROM MILITARY INVOLVEMENT. THESE POWER SHIFTS HAVE TAKEN PLACE BEFORE, HOWEVER, AND DOUBTLESS MICOMBERO WILL FIND MEANS OF TRYING TO OFFSET EXCESSIVE POWER ACCUMULATION IN HANDS POTENTIAL RIVAL LIKE SIMBANANIYE. IN MEANTIME, SOCALLED "HARDLINERS" ALSO WILLING AT MOMENT TO GIVE LIP SERVICE TO NEED FOR INTERNAL RECONCILIATION.

4. EXTERNAL RELATIONS IMPROVED SUBSTANTIALLY FOLLOWING CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT IN RWANDA AND REVIVAL OF TRIPARTITE WITH RWANDA AND ZAIRE. (CRUCIAL RELATIONS WITH TANZANIA REMAIN COOL, HOWEVER, AND, WHILE THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT GRB AND GOT HAVE MADE EFFORT REDUCE POTENTIAL FOR BORDER VIOLENCE, TANZANIAN ATTITUDES MAY BE DETERMINING FACTOR IN DEVELOPMENT OVER LONGER TERM OF EXISTING POTENTIAL OF REFUGEES FOR CAUSING SERIOUS TROUBLE.) TEMPORARY FEELING OF SECURITY IN GRB HAS PROBABLY BEEN REINFORCED BY ALGERIAN AND LIBYAN ARMS AND AMMUNITION DELIVERIES AND PROMISES OF FURTHER ARAB SUPPORT. SOVIETS ALSO SHOWING RENEWED INTEREST WITH RECENT DEPARTURE OF BURUNDI MILITARY FOR TRAINING IN USSR. CHINESE HAVE SIGNED PROTOCOL WHICH REPORTEDLY WILL PERMIT WORK TO PROCEED ON MUGERE DAM (BUJUMBURA HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT) AND ARE PUSHING GRB TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR IMPORTING CHINESE GOODS SO FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT CAN BEGIN. RELATIONS WITH BELGIM MAY BE STABILIZING SOMEWHAT THOUGH LONGER TERM PROSPECTS STILL APPEAR MOST CLOUDY FROM THIS PERSPECTIVE.

5. WOULD THUS APPEAR THAT, WHILE BASIC DOMESTIC FACTORS AFFECTING OUTLOOK FOR BURUNDI REMAIN ESSENTIALLY UNCHANGED, TUTSI ESTABLISHMENT HAS BEEN CALMED FOR TIME BEING BY EXTERNAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BUJUMB 00931 261619Z

DEVELOPMENTS--IN RWANDA IN PARTICULAR--AND BY REFUGEES' FAILURE SO FAR TO FOLLOW UP MAY ATTACKS WITH SERIOUS NEW TROUBLE FOR GRB. THERE HAS BEEN INCREASED SELF CONFIDENCE WITH RESPECT CURRENT SITUATION, AND IMPORTANT TUTSI LEADERS HAVE PRIVATELY EXPRESSED RECOGNITION OF NEED TO START GROPING FOR LONG TERM SOLUTION MEETING BASIC NEEDS AND RESPECTING RIGHTS BOTH ETHNIC COMMUNITIES (THOUGH THINKING SO FAR HIGHLY TENTATIVE AND APPEARS COVER ONLY FIRST STEP OR TWO IN THAT DIRECTION). DEEP SCHISMS

IN ESTABLISHMENT, HOWEVER RAISE DOUBTS
CONCERNING ABILITY THOSE ELEMENTS DESIRING MOVE SERIOUSLY
TOWARD LONGTERM POLITICAL MODUS VIVENDI TO DO SO.
EXTERNAL COURSE CONTINUES DRIFT AWAY FROM WEST AS ANTI&;
BURUNDI PRESSURES, PARTICULARLY IN BELGIUM, CALL FUTURE
OF BILATERAL COOPERATION INTO QUESTION. THESE TRENDS, IF
CONTINUED, ALSO POINT TOWARD DIMINISHING POSSIBILITY FOR
WESTERN COUNTRIES TO EXERCISE EFFECTIVE INFLUENCE ON COURSE
FUTURE TUTSI POLICY, BOTH IN ITS EXTERNAL MANIFESTATIONS
AND ITS INTERNAL ECONOMIC AND POLITICO-RACIAL ASPECTS.

6. POINTS SIMBANANIYE MIGHT MAKE. SIMBANANIYE IN ALL
LIKELIHOOD INTERESTED PRIMARILY IN PROBING USG THINKING
RE STATUS AND PROSPECTS US-BURUNDI RELATIONS. MIGHT
PUSH FOR EASING OF RELATIONS, POINTING TO PEACE AND CALM
IN BURUNDI. MIGHT ALSO SEEK CLARIFICATION OF US INITIATIVES
WITH OAU AND AFRICAN HEADS OF STATE (BUJUMBURA 794).

7. POINTS THAT MIGHT BE RAISED
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BUJUMB00931
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS YOST
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BUJUMBURA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730910/aaaaahbb.tel
Line Count: 129
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A BUJUMBURA 918, B. BUJUMBURA 546 C.
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 08 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08-Jan-2002 by martinjw>; APPROVED <25-Jan-2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REQUEST BY FONMIN SIMBANANIYE FOR MEETING WITH SECRETARY
TAGS: PFOR, BY, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005